



## National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office

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# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending August 27, 2006

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*This report can be found on the Internet at*

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_and\\_Condition/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp)

**Excellent Week for Field Work:** Although last week was really dry, it ended with some light rains all over the state. Farmers had 6 suitable days for field work last week. The consistent weather conditions are keeping farmers in the fields making hay. The corn continued to dry down, which encouraged farmers to make silage last week. Late Sunday evening many areas received some relief with scattered showers throughout Pennsylvania. Apples, peaches, and potatoes continue to be harvested; with potato farmers still reporting problems with leafhoppers. Principal farm activities included baling hay and straw; filling silos; spreading lime; planting rye; plowing; and harvesting oats, peaches, apples, sweet corn, corn silage, potatoes, and tobacco.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 27, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
24	38	35	3

**Crops:** Last week the corn crop continued to progress nicely and all stages are considerably ahead of their individual 5-year averages. Eighty-nine percent of the corn has entered the dough stage, compared to 79 percent last year and 71 percent for the 5-year average. Sixty-four percent has reached the dent stage. This number is far ahead of last year's figure of 41 percent. The corn crop is swiftly maturing at 16 percent, which is more than double the 5-year average of 7 percent. Due to the lack of substantial rainfall the corn condition continues to decline. Currently, 62 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Corn silage harvesting is still moving quickly throughout the state. Chopping corn silage is significantly higher than normal at 31 percent, in comparison to 11 percent this time last year and 14 percent for the 5-year average. Sixty-four percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Potato harvesting is moving in the right direction, as 25 percent were dug last week, which is higher than the 5-year average at 22 percent. Tobacco harvesting, at 28 percent, is moving in line with the previous and 5-year averages. Last week the alfalfa third cutting, at 85 percent, was ahead of the 5-year average which is 70 percent. In addition, the fourth cutting was right on schedule with the averages, at 10 percent. Although progress was pretty slow last week, timothy second cutting is still ahead of schedule at 87 percent. The quality of hay made has remained steady from the previous week, with last week's conditions reported as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 21 percent excellent.

Peach picking improved last week coming in at 76 percent, which is up 2 percent from last year's progress. Apple harvesting was productive last week at 33 percent. This is 8 percent higher than last year and the 5-year average. The apple condition remained consistent with the previous week, with 15 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 21 percent excellent.

**Livestock:** Pastures are still growing at the same slow pace as the previous week. The cooler temperatures continue to provide a much needed relief for livestock, considering the humid temperatures from the previous weeks. Pasture condition was reported as the following: 12 percent very poor, 31 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 22 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

**U.S. as of August 22, 2006:** Near-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Nation. Moderate to heavy precipitation fell in a band from the Southwest, across the central Great Plains, to the western Corn Belt, improving crop conditions in most of the affected area. Lighter rainfall in the northern Great Plains, also improved crop conditions. Mostly dry conditions across the Mississippi Delta, Southeast, and southern Atlantic Coast caused further depletion of soil moisture but favored fieldwork.

**Corn:** Eighty-two percent of the acreage was at or beyond the dough stage, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 11 points ahead of normal. Doughing was at or ahead of normal in most states, and was well ahead of normal in the northern Corn Belt. Acreage at or beyond the dent stage advanced to 44 percent, compared with 38 percent last year and 33 percent for the 5-year average. Denting progressed rapidly in the western Corn Belt. Seven percent of the crop was mature, 1 point ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Maturation has not yet begun in most of the eastern Corn Belt.

**Soybeans:** Acreage setting pods or beyond advanced to 93 percent, 1 point behind last year but 5 points ahead of normal. Progress was at or ahead of the normal pace in most states. Acreage dropping leaves, at 4 percent, was 2 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Leaf dropping was underway in most growing areas but was limited to 1 percent across the Corn Belt.

**Small Grains:** The barley harvest advanced to 72 percent complete, compared with 61 percent last year and 53 percent for the 5-year average.

Ninety-six percent of the Nation's oat crop had been harvested, 5 points ahead of last year and 12 points ahead of normal. Harvest reached completion in Ohio and was complete or nearly complete in most states, at 88 percent harvested.

# Weather Data For Week Ending August 27, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 27, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	80	60	70	1	0.52	4	14.38	-3.30	63	2,225	248	3,586
Franklin	87	56	70	3	0.87	2	24.84	4.46	70	2,114	247	3,516
Meadville	82	56	68	3	0.46	3	21.01	0.87	63	2,069	358	3,444
Mercer	87	52	70	3	1.22	3	27.61	8.39	67	2,020	173	3,410
Springboro	83	53	67	-2	0.28	3	24.28	6.64	68	1,871	-93	3,209
Warren	82	56	67	1	1.18	6	27.67	7.44	70	1,942	126	3,309
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	76	45	64	2	0.64	4	20.23	-0.06	70	1,578	241	2,884
Emporium	81	54	68	5	0.89	4	23.70	3.22	67	1,978	482	3,382
Kane	78	47	64	2	0.27	4	21.01	0.46	59	1,453	138	2,751
Laporte	79	55	66	-2	0.45	3	26.57	7.82	71	1,745	-121	3,092
Lock Haven	86	59	71	3	0.66	4	20.46	1.96	58	2,279	308	3,714
Port Allegany	79	53	66	3	0.52	4	19.27	0.12	62	1,692	220	3,023
Renovo	83	58	70	3	0.80	3	20.12	1.62	66	2,089	118	3,517
Ridgway	81	53	67	3	0.38	2	21.08	0.60	65	1,708	212	3,065
Stevenson Dam	83	59	70	6	0.35	4	18.07	-2.41	61	2,109	613	3,531
Towanda	84	55	68	1	0.67	4	18.83	3.29	61	2,101	219	3,490
Wellsboro	79	50	65	2	0.42	2	17.35	1.72	60	1,655	236	2,985
Williamsport	87	58	72	3	0.52	3	17.57	-0.77	57	2,452	280	3,887
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	84	53	67	2	0.58	3	26.97	9.26	53	1,874	262	3,226
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	56	70	2	0.83	2	19.09	1.82	57	2,270	204	3,683
Susquehanna	82	53	67	3	1.58	3	28.08	9.13	67	1,950	409	3,317
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	86	53	69	2	0.05	1	18.99	-0.34	62	2,075	143	3,488
New Castle	88	55	71	4	1.33	3	22.78	5.27	63	2,304	371	3,728
Slippery Rock	89	53	70	5	1.52	2	25.07	6.28	69	2,143	397	3,556
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	87	53	70	2	0.14	2	15.24	-1.59	55	2,191	125	3,620
DuBois	81	51	67	1	0.35	2	20.65	1.25	73	1,913	114	3,293
Lewistown	86	59	72	2	0.15	3	20.28	2.04	55	2,412	150	3,855
Middletown	88	63	76	3	0.61	1	20.00	2.19	46	2,848	300	4,308
Prince Gallitzi	85	50	68	3	0.46	3	19.32	-2.32	58	1,836	176	3,214
Selinsgrove	87	59	71	3	0.10	4	22.50	3.97	57	2,357	236	3,792
State College	84	59	71	3	0.15	2	14.40	-2.53	54	2,348	302	3,788
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	88	59	72	2	0.68	3	23.45	4.12	59	2,565	228	4,009
Lehighton	85	58	71	1	0.86	4	23.93	4.75	66	2,302	41	3,727
Matamoras	85	54	68	-2	0.47	2	20.67	1.09	62	2,042	-6	3,427
Mt_Pocono	81	52	65	2	1.44	3	27.50	6.84	71	1,850	431	3,209
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	88	58	73	5	0.01	1	18.59	0.58	58	2,459	387	3,908
Derry	88	56	71	4	0.00	0	21.58	2.87	57	2,107	151	3,524
Myersdale	87	48	67	-2	0.43	2	19.98	-0.47	70	1,605	-311	2,952
Mount Pleasant	88	53	69	3	0.10	1	20.11	-1.14	60	2,060	317	3,472
Pittsburgh Intl	88	55	72	3	0.01	1	15.48	-1.53	54	2,385	218	3,822
Connellsville	93	55	73	4	0.09	3	17.83	-2.27	75	2,386	182	3,822
Waynesburg	90	53	71	3	0.02	1	15.30	-3.40	54	2,163	154	3,593
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	89	60	74	3	0.61	2	20.61	4.07	55	2,598	109	4,055
Everett	86	52	68	-2	0.40	2	15.55	-0.86	62	1,770	-278	3,197
Hanover	90	55	73	2	1.75	1	17.47	0.93	53	2,558	69	4,009
Harrisburg_AP	89	61	75	3	0.68	1	19.35	1.54	52	2,780	225	4,240
South Mountain	87	54	71	3	0.24	2	23.25	6.42	57	2,056	-3	3,473
York	90	54	73	2	1.37	2	14.27	-3.89	49	2,542	65	3,987
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	89	60	73	4	0.89	3	25.14	6.31	57	2,615	386	4,063
Hamburg	89	61	73	5	0.77	3	23.62	1.78	65	2,656	610	4,102
West_Chester	90	55	73	2	1.38	2	22.29	1.87	48	2,507	41	3,949
Lancaster	89	59	74	4	0.44	3	24.40	5.25	57	2,665	312	4,119
Neshaminy Falls	88	59	72	2	0.58	3	22.82	0.91	51	2,485	156	3,935
New Holland	90	60	75	4	0.61	2	18.19	-0.96	55	2,692	339	4,142
Philadelphia	92	64	77	4	0.68	3	18.78	0.07	45	3,105	419	4,582
Philadelphia NE	91	63	76	3	1.58	3	22.18	3.47	51	3,053	367	4,525
Reading	90	61	74	4	0.45	2	19.76	-0.55	53	2,730	415	4,181
Valley Forge Na	89	56	74	0	2.77	4	26.04	6.50	59	2,672	57	4,124
Willow Grove	87	61	73	3	0.00	0	17.40	-4.51	43	2,772	443	4,234

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA)** - Adams County continues to be extremely dry this week. No measurable rainfall was received. There were only a couple of drops in some areas. Crops are really starting to show the effect of drought by turning brown.

Corn continues to turn brown with most ears not filled out. Harvesting for corn silage started last week, and will continue. Water needs to be added due to corn stalks being so dry. Soybeans are at a standstill but still green. Soybean pods are not developing due to lack of moisture.

Apples continue to look good and are being harvested. Peach harvest is almost complete with maybe a week or so left. Sweet corn is about over for the most part. Pumpkins are drying up also due to dry weather. Some producers have been irrigating some of their pumpkins but most are not irrigated.

Fall plowing is occurring, preparing for barley and wheat seedings if we get some moisture.

Adams County seems to be missing the rain that is in the forecasts and staying north of the turnpike. Some rain now will only help the apples and possibly help the pastures to start some regrowth.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)** - Much needed rains arrived over the weekend. Some vegetable growers had started irrigating last week. The dry weather had allowed for good quality hay to be made recently. Corn silage is being harvested.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA)** - Conditions throughout the county have been extremely dry until the showers of this weekend. Corn was beginning to dry down. However, soybeans needed moisture to fill pods.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - Potato harvesting is just beginning.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Dry week, but rains came on Sunday with over 2 inches in my gage. Silo filling is under way, rye is being planted, and plowing is under way for fall planted grains.

**CHESTER COUNTY, Samuel High (NRCS)** - The continued dry weather is hurting double crop soybean production.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice)** - Rain over the weekend. Should help some soybeans set beans. Some soybeans in the area are past helping. Corn mostly done. Will be interesting to see what stalk quality is and how it will stand.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum** - Getting dry again. Corn maturity seems to be advanced over normal.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT)** - Slightly more than 2 inches of rain on Sunday north of Harrisburg was greatly welcomed. Up to that time conditions were extremely dry across this region. Corn silage harvest progressing last week as crop was drying down quite rapidly. Doubtful if the rain will make too great of a difference in the remaining crop. Grain moistures is the next issue as the harvest window is narrowing for silage and high moisture grain. Soybeans have suffered significantly from dry August. New seedings of forage crops will benefit significantly from these late rains.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - Potatoes are being harvested. Some fourth crop alfalfa hay is harvested. Farmers are getting ready to start harvesting corn for silage. Oats and wheat straw was harvested. The rain over the weekend was needed. Some areas received over an inch.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - With the continuing dry conditions, many farmers are cutting corn silage and making hay. The early planted corn is maturing and is well dented. There is significant insect damage in some of the soybean fields. The main activities for the week were making hay, making corn silage, and spreading lime.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - A dry start to the week but we have received some good soaking rain to help third cutting hay and give silage corn a little more growth. Crop conditions are all over the board depending on where in the county fields are located. Some areas have had more timely rain than others but overall evaluation looks decent.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS)** - Last week producers were telling me that pastures were so dry they were considering feeding hay. The rain this past weekend will help pastures to recover.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - The dry conditions continued this week with no rain since last Saturday. Even though some sections of the county have received more than 3 inches of rain in August, the moisture all came in two downpours with a great deal of runoff leaving even these areas very dry. With August's heat and dryness, crop conditions across the county are extremely variable depending on available moisture; planting, pollination and maturity dates; and planting method.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 27, 2006**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, dough	89	79	71
Corn, dent	64	41	35
Corn, mature	16	10	7
Corn silage, harvested	31	11	14
Barley, planted	0	17	4
Tobacco, harvested	28	54	38
Potatoes, harvested	25	26	22
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	85	89	70
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	10	13	18
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	87	74	70
Peaches, harvested	76	74	78
Apples, harvested	33	25	25
Grapes, harvested	0	3	6

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 27, 2006**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	3	7	28	45	17
Soybeans	1	7	28	49	15
Quality of hay made	1	3	20	55	21
Pasture	12	31	28	22	7
Apples	0	0	15	64	21

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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